

FARM BLOC SPLITS ON TREASURY DRIVES

Bonus, Tariff, Sales Tax and
Army and Navy Programs
Foment Discord.

LEADERS LOSING GRIP

Rank and File See Powerful
Interests Favored by
New Tariff Rates.

HOME FOLKS' CHANGING

Rally to President on National
Defense and Get New Light
on Sales Tax.

By LOUIS SEIBOLD.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., April 27.

The non-partisan and bi-partisan agricultural bloc seems to be losing contact with the farming constituencies, which it pretends to represent in Congress. Recent developments have clearly established the fact that the half dozen groups made up of Senators and Representatives from farming and rural communities are not reflecting the wishes of their voters in their respective States on at least five legislative proposals of paramount national importance.

Some of these Senators and Representatives, who were very active in promoting the demands and requests of agriculturists throughout the country, privately admit that "there is a deplorable lack of cooperation between some of the Congressional agriculturists and a tendency toward realignment with the two political parties."

The retirement from the Senate of W. S. Kenyon to become a Federal Judge was perhaps the greatest loss suffered to date by the agricultural bloc, as the Iowa Senator, for clearly understood reasons, was singled out as a sincere sympathizer with the fundamental grievances of the entire agricultural element in the country.

Third Party Talk Ends.

When the agricultural bloc was organized the promoters of the enterprise automatically conferred upon Senator Kenyon the title and task of leader. When he retired to accept judicial honors the post made vacant by him was awarded to Senator Capper of Kansas, who is generally regarded as more of a politician than a statesman. Mr. Capper assumed the management of the agricultural bloc coincident with the maneuver of President Harding to win the friendship of the farming interests by making a sincere attempt to have his party solve the fundamental problems responsible for the unsatisfactory agricultural conditions.

The success of the President in this respect seems to have resulted in greater personal advantage to him than to the individual Senators and Representatives, who now appear to be divided over the work of program that should be put through to satisfy the necessities of their rural constituents.

All talk of a third party promoted through agricultural agencies seems to have been entirely discouraged. The chief reason for this result is that the leaders of the so-called agricultural bloc have been split into conflicting groups over the tariff, the bonus, the sales tax and the army and navy programs of the Administration.

Farmers to Foot Bill.

The bonus provides a conspicuous example of the tendency toward independence of Senators and Representatives who have hitherto followed leaders of the combined farming groups. Since the arbitrary advancement of the bonus measure in defiance of the President and the Secretary of the Treasury there seems to have developed a great wave of opposition to it because of the realization by farmers that they would be called upon to contribute nearly 50 per cent. of the money to pay the bill.

The New York Herald recently published statements from officials of a majority of the State federated farm bureaus which are affiliated with the national organization, having a membership exceeding 1,500,000. Sentiment among these officials was two to one against the bonus.

Directly related to the proposed raid on the national Treasury and taxpayers for the benefit of able-bodied ex-service men is the sales tax. President Harding suggested that this form of taxation be employed to finance the bonus scheme. He is still of the same mind. The promoters of the agricultural bloc in the Senate and House have vigorously protested against the adoption of the sales tax on the theory that it was wholly unpopular with the farming elements of the country.

Here again the leaders of the agri-

cultural bloc seem to be out of touch with their constituents. Recent developments have indicated that as the farmer studies the sales tax proposition he becomes more convinced that it is not the economic acre that his self-appointed representatives in Congress have sought to make it appear.

Turning to Sales Tax.

There is still a great deal of opposition to the sales tax plan—probably a vast majority of farmers accepting the apprehension of it by leaders of organizations with which they are affiliated—but the prejudice against the sales tax, nevertheless, seems to be decreasing, not only as an adjunct to the bonus proposal but for general economic reasons which the farmers of the country are beginning to understand.

The attitude of the agricultural bloc on the tariff is most confusing to most of the farmers of the country. Senators and Representatives on the Finance and Ways and Means committees agree that the tariff bill now under consideration by the Senate contains generous provisions for the protection of the farmer. The fact is the farmer was given the best of it all around.

Discussion of the measure in the Senate, however, shows that while the farmers of the country are generally satisfied with the concessions already granted, the active leaders of the agricultural bloc are still clamoring for greater benefits for certain privileged groups, largely made up of rich and influential corporations and individuals.

Sacrificing Average Farmer.

Senatorial observers who are not catalogued as dirt farmers are firmly convinced that if some of the ventures projected by leaders of the bloc, pretending to speak for all of the farmers of the country, are successful certain powerful agricultural interests will benefit tremendously through the sacrifice of the average farmer struggling for existence.

The rural constituents of the latter class of farmers do not appear to be entirely ignorant of the motives of bloc leaders who are promoting the ambitions of a comparatively small group of powerful agriculturists speaking for—and probably obtaining—special consideration in the matter of tariff concessions.

The agricultural bloc also appears to have lost prestige among the various farming communities through its attitude toward the Administration's army and navy programs. The bloc followers in the House, responding to the "little army" and "little navy" slogans, entered the fight over these measures with a clear majority. As soon as the hard-headed farmers "back home" began to think for themselves this majority was routed and the Administration plans for the armed branches of the national defense won impressive victories. The Senate is soon to take up the army and navy programs after the tariff is disposed of and there will be a recrudescence of "small army" and "small navy" sentiment among the leaders of the agricultural bloc in that body.

A close canvass of the Senate is said to have indicated the same result as obtained in the House largely because of the views of the real farmers of the country, who are for neither a "small army" nor a "small navy." That the majority of the bloc leaders are still urging passage of the bonus for political reasons cannot be disputed, but until the Finance Committee succeeds in producing a bill which will stand a chance of securing executive approval, the exact extent of their influence cannot be determined. The Finance Committee appears to be divided.

This was developed at a conference of the Republican members of the committee today, when Senator Smoot broke from his colleagues and refused pointblank to endorse a modified House plan which is sponsored by Senator Capper. Chairman McCumber (candidate for reelection) lined up enough support in the committee to discard the plan of Senator Smoot for a paid up insurance policy without an immediate cash value.

HARDING NOT COMING.

President Harding sent a letter yesterday to the American Legion expressing regret that he would not be able to attend the dinner Saturday evening to Col. Hanford MacNider, national commander, at the Pennsylvania Hotel. The President said pressing engagements at the time of the dinner made it impossible for him to attend.

WOULD QUIT SENATE BEFORE AIDING BONUS

Myers of Montana Replies
to Letter From Disabled
Veterans.

'VOTES AS FREE MAN'

Conscience Dictates Against
Further Burden on
Taxpayers.

VEILED THREATS IDLE

Democrat Favors Any Help
Except a Cash Raid on U. S.
Treasury.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—Senator Myers (Dem., Mont.) to-day replied in a letter to the Montana State Division, Disabled Veterans of the World War, which sought to take him to task for opposing the bonus raid. The Montana Senator said:

"I came to the Senate a free man and I would rather retire from it than remain subject to the dictation of any organized minority afraid to follow the judgment of my own conscience and sense of duty. I have so far followed my own convictions of duty since I have been here and shall continue to do so. The highest test of public service, in my opinion, is to do one's duty fearlessly and fairly as one sees it without regard to consequences, and I have tried to set my aim on that plane.

"I observe you write significantly that the disabled men in Montana 'have been observers' of the actions of Montana's representatives at Washington. I observe also, that one of the resolutions severely condemns me for my opposition to the cash provisions of the adjusted compensation measure and refers to my 'back home' attitude toward the disabled men and citizens generally. Of course, it was the privilege of your convention thus to characterize me if it saw fit, and it is equally my privilege to discharge my duties according to my conscience and sense of duty.

"I have voted for every measure that has come up in Congress for the benefit of disabled world war veterans. I have favored everything our former service men have asked and do favor everything they ask except a cash bonus at an expense of about four billion dollars to the taxpayers of the country.

"That I cannot favor because I am opposed to it in principle; it never has been done for the soldiers of any other American war and I do not think the business of the country or the condition of the overburdened taxpayers justify it.

"Furthermore, I deny the right of your convention to speak for all former service men and all citizens of Montana. I have received many letters from former service men and from other citizens in opposition to the cash bonus."

LEADERS AMONG VOTING WOMEN OPPOSE BONUS

Baltimore Delegates Speak
Out Against Raid.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
BALTIMORE, April 27.—Women delegates to the conference of the League of Women Voters meeting here appear to be overwhelmingly against the soldiers' bonus bill.

Their views harmonize with those who attended the convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, where a poll by THE NEW YORK HERALD showed six times as many Daughters opposed to the bonus as favored it.

Some opinions expressed to-day follow:

Mrs. Florence Kelly, president of the Consumers League of America: "Every voting woman must be deeply interested in the difference between the niggardly

sum of \$1,500,000, which Congress voted to reduce the death of babies and the huge sums which Congress is now considering for a bonus for soldier voters."

Mrs. Frank Shuler, New York: "We owe some appreciation to the men who became disabled during the war, but not to those who came out well and strong."

Mrs. Minax Vanwinkle, head of the Women's Police Bureau, Washington: "It is wicked to attempt to pay for patriotism. We must lend our efforts for the care of the sick and disabled."

Mrs. Walter Kruess, Women's City Club of New York: "We should not capitulate patriotism. The idea is antagonistic to every ideal."

Mrs. Ruth Gardner, editor of the Social Hygiene Bulletin: "We must not jeopardize the country at this critical time with such an unnecessary thing as the bonus."

Mrs. Ethel Smith, Women's National Trades Union League: "I do not believe in a cash bonus. We should provide jobs for men and help the disabled. I believe the most worthy of the ex-service men regard the movement to confer a cash bonus as an insult."

Mrs. A. D. Adalinger, president of Michigan Women Voters League: "I think the bonus is morally and economically wrong."

CHILDREN IN FRANCE CONTEST SYKES WILL Want Larger Share of Dye Man's \$1,000,000 Estate.

On behalf of three little girls living in Paris, France, objections have been filed in the Surrogate's Court, Brooklyn, to the probate of the will of Walter F. Sykes, founder of the dyestuffs firm of Walter F. Sykes & Co. of 8 Lippend street, Manhattan. The will disposes of an estate declared to exceed a million dollars.

The children are the offspring of the marriage of Mr. Sykes, a widower, 65, to Mrs. Suzanne Sykes in New York city on May 14, 1914. Mrs. Sykes was a member of a well known French family and was in her twenties when Mr. Sykes met her on one of his many trips to Europe.

Mrs. Sykes now lives at 142 Boulevard Pereire, Paris. Her children, the contestants, Lillian, Madeleine and Maude Sykes, are with her. Mrs. Sykes obtained a divorce, according to the papers filed, in Bexar county, Texas, on June 6, 1921. Two and a half months later Mr. Sykes executed his will, with substantial bequests to a shipping clerk and bookkeeper and then said:

"I give and bequeath to Madeleine, Maude and Lillian Sykes, now of Paris, France, the sum of \$500 each, absolutely and forever."

The residue went to "my children," Helen M. Sykes Reinhard, 744 Washington avenue, Brooklyn; George P. Sykes, 1111 Carroll street, Brooklyn; Harold A. Sykes, Queens, L. I.; Robert W. Sykes and Walter F. Sykes, Jr., both of Rochester, Mass.

Mr. Sykes died November 12, 1921, at his country home, the Anchorage, at Quogue, L. I.

Mrs. Sykes is not named as a contestant, though it was asserted she has dower rights in the estate.

Mr. Sykes' city home was at 626 Second street, Brooklyn.

PRINCETON MEN HONORED.

PRINCETON, April 27.—Prof. L. P. Eisenhard and Prof. G. A. Hulett of Princeton were elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences yesterday. It holds the same position here as the British Royal Society in England and the French Academy of Science in France.

REBUKES WOMEN AS KINDERGARTNERS

Mrs. Catt Deplores Voters
League's Failure in Pro-
gram of Citizenship.

WELFARE WORK GOES ON

Mrs. Charles Tiffany Fails to
Get Convention to Adopt
Platform of Action.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
BALTIMORE, April 27.—After one of the liveliest battles a woman's organization ever participated in, the League of Women Voters to-night voted in favor of continuing their "sob stuff" instead of setting right down to political work.

The victors felt their triumph until Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, who organized the league but who has never sought to influence it, declared they were still kindergartners in citizenship. This rather dimmed the glory of their victory.

The contest, which started in the morning and continued most of the day and evening, was whether the league should drop its social hygiene and welfare work and adopt a citizenship and good government program for its chief and only activity. The principal supporters of the political work were Mrs. John O. Miller, president of the Pennsylvania league, and Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany, one of the New York city league officers.

They took the most active part in the discussion, favoring abandoning a program of "sob stuff" as Dr. L. Jennings of Illinois styled it. The middle West was lined up against the East, which had the support of some of the Southern States. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Tiffany urged that welfare and social hygiene work be left to other organizations already in the field.

When Mrs. Catt was asked to express an opinion she prefaced it by stating that she and Mrs. Maud Wood Park, president of the league, did not agree on this point.

"In Kindergarten."

"Social hygiene and child welfare are not training for citizenship," said Mrs. Catt. "There is no other woman's organization but the league to do political work, and I regret there have been no more discussions here on how women could influence political parties for good."

good. You are too far down in the kindergarten class to do citizenship work."

For three years certain members of the league have been trying to get rid of its old style club program. The question is to be discussed in the State organizations and, settled finally at next year's convention.

More than 1,000 of the delegates, who have been here for a week, will depart on a special train to-morrow morning for Washington, where the final meetings will be held. Viscountess Astor, who is in Baltimore for the league, attended a luncheon to-day given by the D. A. R. of this city at the Belvedere Hotel. She will go to Washington by automobile to-morrow and while there will be the guest of Mrs. Clifford Pinchot.

Guest of Swanson.

She will have luncheon with Senator Swanson of Virginia, her home State, and in the evening she will attend the league's mass meeting in Continental Hall, at which Secretary of State Hughes, Don Beltran Mathieu, Ambassador from Chile; Dr. L. S. Rowe, Director-general of the Pan-American Union; Mrs. Robert Lansing, representing the women's auxiliary committee of the United States of the second Pan-American Scientific Congress, and Mrs. Catt will speak.

On Saturday Mrs. Harding will entertain the delegates at the White House and in the evening the league will give a house warming for Lady Astor in its new headquarters, 532 Seventeenth street, N. W.

The Latin American delegates to the conference also will be guests.

For the first time in its history the city of Washington is to be decorated in honor of an unofficial organization. The Commissioner also has requested that the Capitol dome be illuminated for the visitors.

UP-STATE WOMEN FAVOR REELECTION OF MILLER

Praise Harding Administration
at Buffalo Meeting.

BUFFALO, April 27.—Gov. Miller's re-nomination was urged, the Harding Administration praised and citizens ex-horted to take greater interest in affairs of government by speakers at a meeting of Republican women here to-day.

John Lord O'Brien, former United States Attorney, was chairman, and speakers included Mrs. Eli T. Hosmer, member of the State Motion Picture Commission; Mrs. John T. Pratt of New York and Mrs. Rosalie Loew Whitney of New York.

Mrs. Hosmer declared she would put in the summer working for the renomination and reelection of Gov. Miller, who, she said, "knows what the public wants, and when he thinks a thing is fair does his best to bring it about."

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